Irrigation Potential in Madhya Pradesh

*357 SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI. Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the position of Madhya Pradesh vis-a-vis other States in regard to culturable area and the irrigation potential created in the country by the end of the Sixth Plan,

(b) when it will be possible for Madhya Pradesh to fully utilise its ultimate irrigation potential and what are the reasons for its slow utilisation, and

(c) whether the Government of India are considering to provide extra plan assistance to a backward State like Madhya Pradesh so that it could develop its untapped irrigation potential along with other developed States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA). (a) Irrigation potential created upto the end of the Sixth Plan in Madhya Pradesh is 16.7 per cent of the State's cultivable area in 1983-84, as against the country's corresponding figure of about 36.6 per cent (Land use statistics available only upto 1983-84).

(b) The creation of ultimate irrigation potential depends upon the priority accorded by the State Government for development of irrigation facilities in their plans. The reasons for slow progress include late start in irrigation development and constraint of financial resources.

(c) Irrigation projects are planned and funded by State Governments and Central assistance is given in the form of block grants and loans and is not tied to any sector of development.

Storage Charges paid by STC

*358 SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA
SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVA-KOLI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that STC has paid Rs. 26.50 per MT per month for storage and handling of edible oil to Indian Molasses Co./its associates, the JR Enterprises, AVR and Co at Bombay against the rate of Rs. 22/- per MT paid to other parties,

(b) if so, what is the total excess amount paid/to be paid during the contract period to this Company; and

(c) whether STC proposes to recover the excess amount paid to save the loss to the public exchequer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA). (a) to (c) STC has hired tanks for storage of edible oil in port towns from several parties including M/s Indian Molasses Co. (IMCOLA) and their associates. The hiring charges for these tanks depend upon the location of the tank, its proximity with the port, rates for long term hiring and availability of alternate suitable storage capacity. In Bombay, tanks of M/s IMCOLA which are located in immediate vicinity of the jetty and within the port premises at Bombay, have been taken on short term hire in June, 1986 for storage of edible oil at the rate of Rs. 27.50 per metric tonne (PMT) per ment for non-solidifying oils. The rates of hire of other parties for short term hire vary from Rs 20 to Rs 34 PMT per month.

No excess amount has been paid and there is no proposal with STC to recover any amount from them.